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| APPLICATION NO.                                 | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/634,128                                      | 08/04/2003  | Patrick Vantouroux   | 5310-05100          | 5757             |
| 35690   | 7590        | 01/13/2005           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| MEYERTONS, HOOD, KIVLIN, KOWERT & GOETZEL, P.C. |             |                      | GILMAN, ALEXANDER   |                  |
| P.O. BOX 398                                    |             |                      | ART UNIT            |                  |
| AUSTIN, TX 78767-0398                           |             |                      | PAPER NUMBER        |                  |
|   |             |                      | 2833                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/634,128

Applicant(s)

VANTOUROUX, PATRICK

Examiner

Alexander D Gilman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 October 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/25/2004.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rudy, Jr et al.

With regard to claim 1, Rudy, Jr et al (US 4,684,187) disclose a connector for electrical conductors comprising:

contact/locking end-fittings (80) on the ends of the connector to be connected designed to be inserted into electrically insulated locking members (20) retained inside a connector body or case, wherein the locking members are retained inside the case and electrically insulated by a single retention and insulation element (38) produced as a single part, made of an elastomer (col. 4, lines 38-41), by overmolding of the locking members directly in the body so as to surround the locking members on the side facing the case and at least on the rear side of the connector and having openings on the rear side of the connector for insertion of the end-fittings and for sealed passage of the conductors fitted with the end-fittings.

With regard to claim 1, Rudy, Jr et al disclose the retention and insulation element (38) is produced as a single part so as also to surround the locking members on the front side of the connector and having on the front side of the connector openings for sealed passage of the contacts.

1. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Blanchet Lucien (FR2742264)

With regard to claim 1, Blanchet Lucien (FR2742264) disclose(Fig. 1) a connector for electrical conductors comprising:

contact/locking end-fittings (7) on the ends of the connector to be connected designed

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to be inserted into electrically insulated locking members (5) retained inside a connector body or case, wherein the locking members are retained inside the case and electrically insulated by a single retention and insulation element (15) produced as a single part, made of an elastomer by overmolding of the locking members directly in the body so as to surround the locking members on the side facing the case and at least on the rear side of the connector and having openings on the rear side of the connector for insertion of the end-fittings and for sealed passage of the conductors fitted with the end-fittings.

With regard to claim 1, Blanchet Lucien (FR2742264) disclose the retention and insulation element (38) is produced as a single part so as also to surround the locking members on the front side of the connector and having on the front side of the connector openings for sealed passage of the contacts.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 11/02/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that prior art (Rudy, Jr) does not teach the following feature of the invention "the retention and insulation element (38) is produced as a single part so as also to surround the locking members on the front side of the connector and having on the front side of the connector openings for sealed passage of the contacts."

However, Rudy, Jr recites "According to another aspect of the invention, an elastomeric material such as silicone rubber may be overmolded over the retention wafer .... to provide a sealing engagement by a rearward ledge against a rearward surface of the connector housing, and to assist in sealing around the insulation of the conductor to which the terminal is terminated." (Rudy, Col. 1, line 49-Col. 2, line 9).

Hence, as it shown in the office actions, Rudy,Jr teaches all of the limitations.

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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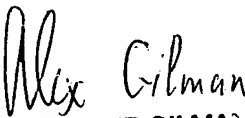
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander D Gilman whose telephone number is 571 272-2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571 272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

01/05/2005

  
ALEXANDER GILMAN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER